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# The **UNEXPECTED**



# 4

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★ No. 61 **DEATH TRAP**

*Like a monstrous god of war, Hill 60 demanded a sacrifice!*

★ No. 62 **NIGHT OF THE DEVIL**

*The fate of the lonely patrol was hidden in the nightmare jungle!*

★ No. 63 **CHALLENGE**

*The war was too far away for these red-blooded men of action!*

★ No. 64 **THE VICIOUS CIRCLE**

*Clawed from the sky, they would not admit defeat!*

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*The fate of the lonely patrol was hidden in the nightmare jungle!*

# NIGHT OF THE DEVIL



# THE UNEXPECTED

THE SPECTACULAR SUCCESS OF SPECIAL MISSIONS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS FIRST AND FOREMOST THE RESULT OF THE COURAGE AND ENTERPRISE OF THE MEN TAKING PART. BUT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE SUCCESS OF SUCH MISSIONS WAS THE CAREFUL PLANNING AND MINUTE CHECKING THAT HAD BECOME THE CHIEF FUNCTION OF BRITISH ARMY INTELLIGENCE . . .



THIS EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF SIFTING FACTS HAD BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ONE MAN — COLONEL HENRY BRAYBROOKE. DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE LIBYAN CAMPAIGN, HE HAD LEARNED THE VALUE OF DETAIL FROM ONE OF THE COMMANDOS MOST DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENTS — OPERATION TASKMASTER !

# Chapter 1. Back from the Dead

EARLY IN 1941, THE ALLIED FORCES WERE FALLING BACK UNDER THE OVERWHELMING MIGHT OF ROMMEL'S PANZERS. THROUGH THE DUSTY STREETS OF CAIRO, A BRITISH ARMY LORRY GROUNDED ITS WAY—UNTIL IT REACHED AN UNOBTRUSIVE WHITEWASHED GATEWAY... THE HEADQUARTERS OF ARMY INTELLIGENCE.



CAPTAIN PHILIP STANTON WAS TAKEN STRAIGHT TO THE OFFICE OF COLONEL BRAYBROOKE.

PLEASE GO STRAIGHT IN, SIR. THE COLONEL IS WAITING FOR YOU!

THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT!



COLONEL BRAYBROOKE HAD THE INSCRUTABLE FEATURES OF A MAN WHOSE EXPRESSIONS NEVER REVEALED HIS THOUGHTS. HE SPOKE IN SHORT, CLIPPED, DIRECT SENTENCES THAT CUT SHORT ANY ARGUMENT.

CAPTAIN STANTON REPORTING, SIR.

I HAVE YOUR REPORT, CAPTAIN. SOME POINTS NEED FURTHER EXPLANATION. SIT DOWN AND GIVE ME THE FULL STORY...



A LITTLE TAKEN ABACK BY THE COLONEL'S ABRUPT ATTITUDE, THE CAPTAIN SAT WARILY IN THE CHAIR AND SEARCHED BACK THROUGH HIS MEMORY...

YOUR REGIMENT WAS OVERRUN WHILE HOLDING THE LINE TWELVE MILES EAST OF GAZALA AERODROME! TAKE IT FROM THERE...

WELL, SIR - AFTER I ESCAPED I...



# The Unexpected

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AND SO THE CAPTAIN TOOK UP THE STORY OF THE GRUELLING ACTION IN WHICH A CRACK REGIMENT HAD BEEN WIPE OUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO CHECK THE FLOW OF ROMMEL'S ARMOUR TOWARDS TOBRUK.

I WAS 'B' COMPANY COMMANDER, IN A FORWARD SECTOR OF THE LINE. OUR CASUALTIES HAD BEEN HEAVY AND WE WERE RUNNING LOW ON AMMUNITION WHEN THE GERMAN TANKS HIT US ...



THE SITUATION WAS TENSE. AFTER CHASING THE ITALIANS BACK ACROSS THE DESERT, THE WEARY BRITISH ARMY HAD RUN INTO THE WALL OF ROMMEL'S HEAVILY MECHANISED FORCES.

HERE THEY COME AGAIN, SERGEANT! HOLD THEM OFF AT ALL COSTS!

WE'RE RUNNING SHORT OF AMMO, SIR - I'VE JUST ISSUED THE LAST OF OUR RESERVES!



ACROSS THE BURNING SANDS CAME  
THE THICKLY ARMOURED MONSTERS  
OF ROMMEL'S PANZERS — THE  
MARK IV TANKS . . .



UNDER-STRENGTH AND SHORT OF  
AMMUNITION, THE BRITISH WERE  
HARD-PUSHED, BUT DOGGEDLY  
HELD THEIR GROUND.

YOU'VE ABOUT THREE  
MAGS LEFT, DUSTY—  
AND THAT'S ALL!

WE CAN'T  
HANG ON MUCH  
LONGER. THERE  
SEEMS TO BE NO  
END TO THESE  
JERRIES!



# The Unexpected

THEIR HEAVY STEEL GIVING THEM FULL PROTECTION AGAINST ANYTHING THE BRITISH HAD LEFT TO THROW AT THEM, THE MARK IV PANZERS RUMBLED TOWARDS THEIR LINES, GUNS SPRAYING A MURDEROUS STREAM OF LEAD .

LET THE TANKS GO THROUGH! YOU CAN'T STOP THEM! SAVE YOUR AMMO FOR THE INFANTRY .



IN THE WAKE OF THE TANKS, WAVE AFTER WAVE OF TOUGH AFRIKA KORPS TROOPS SWEPT DOWN ON THE WEAKENED DEFENDERS.

COME ON, LADS! FIX BAYONETS!

THAT'S YOUR LAST MAG, DUSTY! FROM NOW ON IT'S COLD STEEL!



BUT DETERMINATION AND COURAGE WERE NOT ENOUGH! THE BRITISH WERE SWAMPED UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS. STANTON GRABBED AT THE BLADE OF A GERMAN BAYONET TO AVOID ITS MURDEROUS THRUST.

NO YOU DON'T, FRITZ - YOU WON'T GET ME THAT EASY!

AAAGH!



BUT THE OFFICER WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THE SWING OF THE HEAVY BUTT, AS THE RIFLE PIVOTED IN THE GERMAN'S HANDS . . .

TAKE THAT ENGLANDER!

AAAGH!



## The Unexpected

COLONEL BRAYBROOKE  
EASED HIMSELF MORE  
COMFORTABLY INTO HIS  
CHAIR AS STANTON  
CONTINUED . . .

HOW LONG I WAS UNCONSCIOUS  
I HAVE NO IDEA. BUT WHEN  
I EVENTUALLY CAME ROUND THE  
FIGHT WAS OVER . . .



OOOH . . . MY HEAD . . . WHERE  
ARE THE OTHERS?

EASY, MY FRIEND—  
YOU HAVE TAKEN A  
NASTY BLOW!

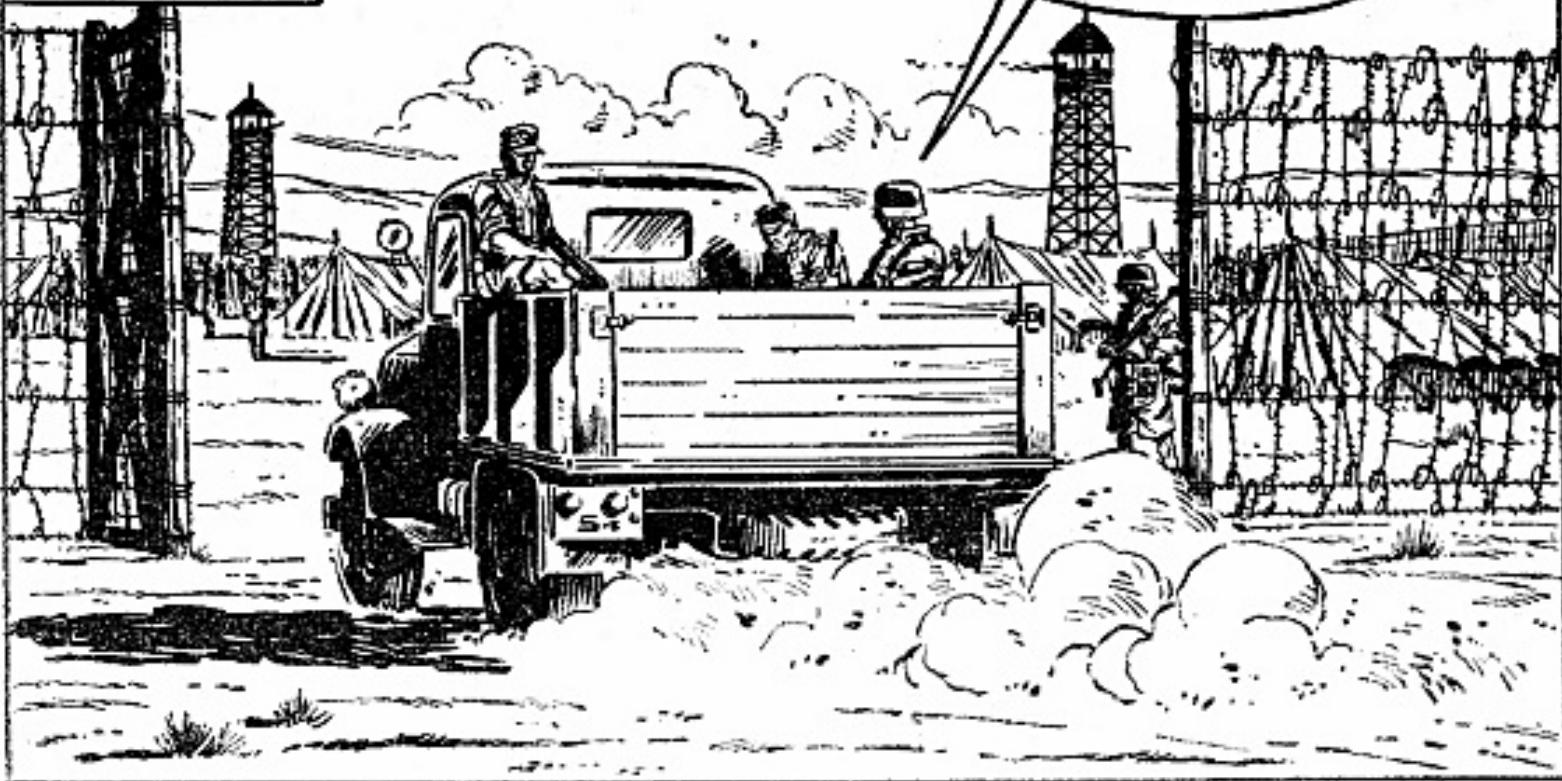
BUT THE OTHER MEN . . .  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THEM?

THEY ARE  
DEAD! YOU  
ARE OUR ONLY  
PRISONER!



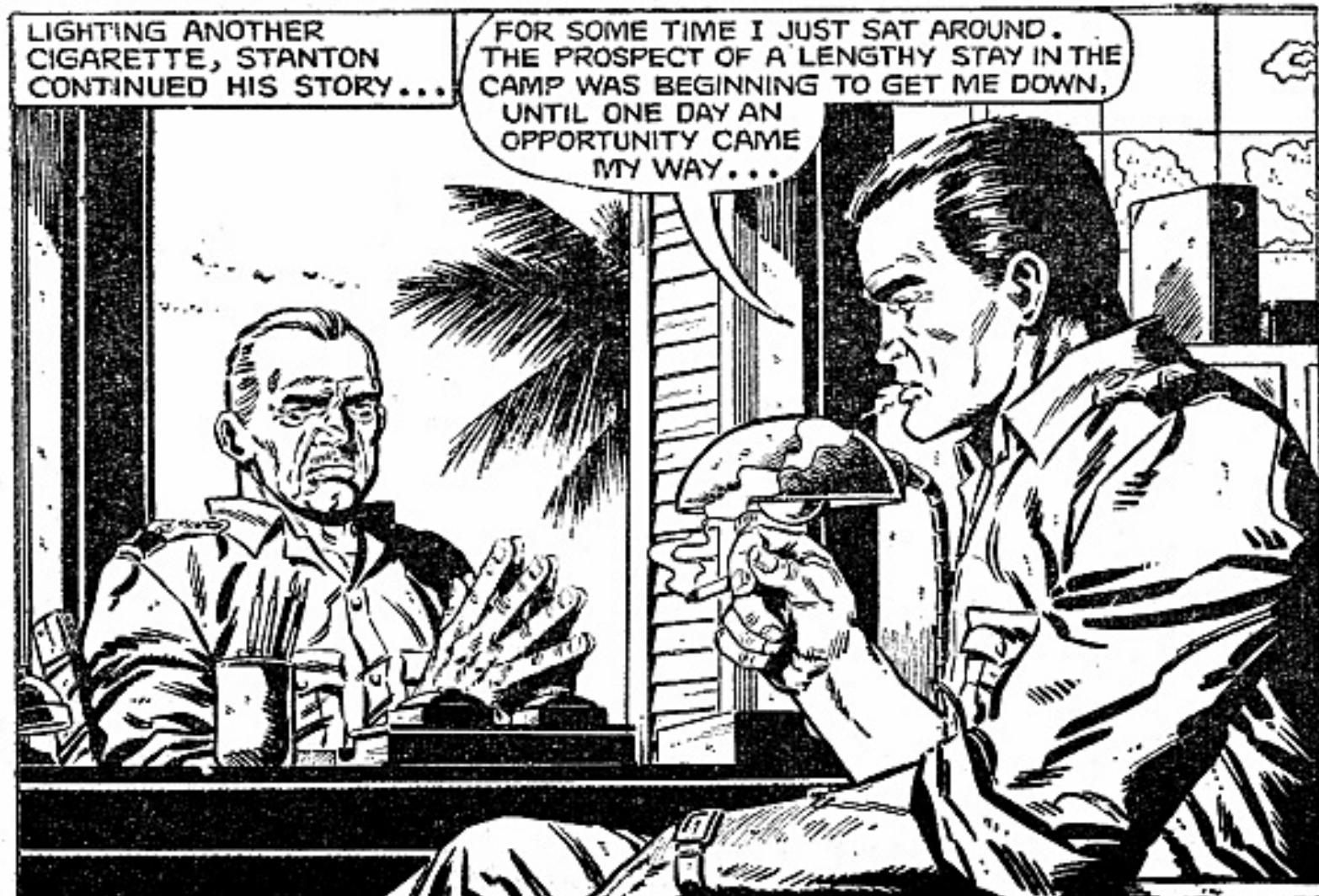
AN HOUR LATER, STANTON SAT MISERABLY IN THE BACK OF A LURCHING GERMAN LORRY AS IT SWUNG THROUGH THE GATES OF THE PRISON COMPOUND . . .

THINK YOURSELF FORTUNATE, ENGLANDER FOR YOU THE WAR IS OVER!



LIGHTING ANOTHER CIGARETTE, STANTON CONTINUED HIS STORY . . .

FOR SOME TIME I JUST SAT AROUND. THE PROSPECT OF A LENGTHY STAY IN THE CAMP WAS BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN, UNTIL ONE DAY AN OPPORTUNITY CAME MY WAY . . .



## The Unexpected

FROM HIS TENT, STANTON WATCHED AS THE ARAB REFUSE COLLECTOR WAS GRUDGINGLY ADMITTED TO THE GERMAN CAMP.

IT'S ONLY THAT OLD FOOL ACHMED, KURT! YOU'D BETTER GO WITH HIM TO THE MESSING TENT!



STANTON KEPT UP HIS VIGIL AS THE WIZENED OLD ARAB SHUFFLED BACK AND FORTH WITH THE KITCHEN GARBAGE. THE GERMAN GUARD PAID NO ATTENTION . . .

THAT OLD ROGUE DOESN'T NEED WATCHING! I COULD HAVE A QUICK SMOKE BEFORE HE'S FINISHED!



# The Unexpected

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SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE BLUE SKY, FURTIVE WISPS OF SMOKE CURLED UP INTO THE STILL AIR FROM THE SENTRY'S CIGARETTE ...

HAVING A CRAFTY FAG, EH? THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ...

NO-ONE NOTICED AS STANTON CREEPT STEALTHILY ROUND BEHIND THE GUARD. THEN ...

AAAGH ...!



SAUNTERING UP TO THE WAITING CART WITH A DECEPTIVE AIR OF CASUALNESS, STANTON CAST A QUICK LOOK ROUND — THEN LEAPED ON TO THE CART AND SLID DOWN IN BETWEEN THE SWILL-BINS!

I WILL BE HERE AGAIN TOMORROW, EFFENDI.

ALL RIGHT, OLD MAN! ON YOUR WAY!



## The Unexpected

SLOWLY, THE SMELLY CART RUMBLED TO THE GATE. EVERY MUSCLE TENSE, STANTON HELD HIS BREATH, EXPECTING AT ANY MOMENT TO FEEL THE MUZZLE OF A RIFLE PRODDING HIS BACK . . .

PHEW! CLEAR OFF WITH YOUR STINKING LOAD OF RUBBISH, YOU MISERABLE BAG-OF-BONES!



WITH A HEFTY SLAP ON THE DONKEY'S RUMP, THE GUARD STOOD TO ONE SIDE AS THE CART RUMBLED SLOWLY FORWARD AGAIN . . .



GOADED TO GREATER EFFORT BY THE ARAB'S STAFF, THE UNWILLING ANIMAL TROTTED FORWARD DOWN THE TRACK.



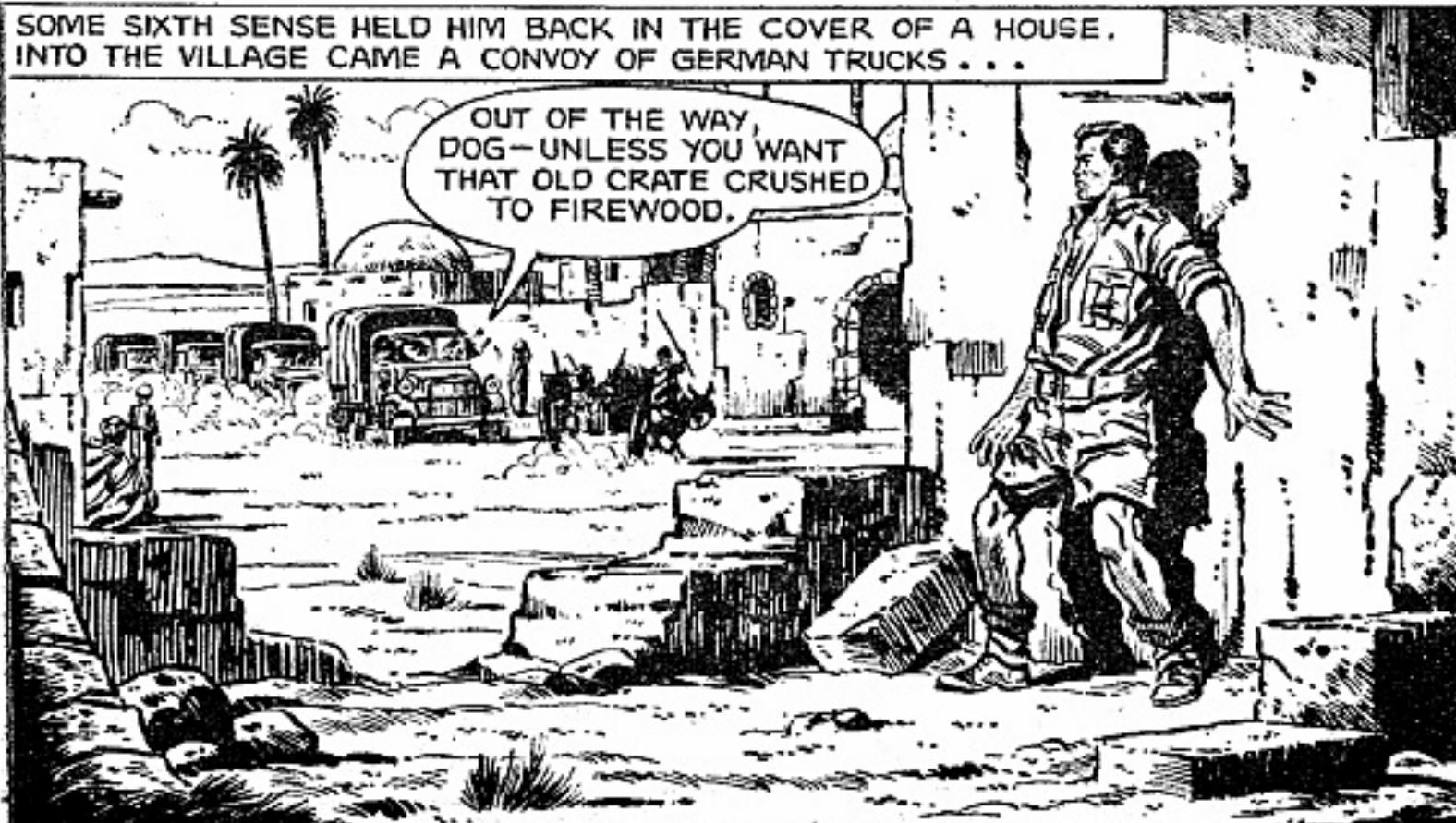
THE CART PULLED INTO AN ARAB VILLAGE. IN A FLASH, STANTON HAD LEAPT FROM HIS HIDING PLACE . . .

I MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THEY SEND OUT SEARCH-PARTIES . . .



SOME SIXTH SENSE HELD HIM BACK IN THE COVER OF A HOUSE. INTO THE VILLAGE CAME A CONVOY OF GERMAN TRUCKS . . .

OUT OF THE WAY, DOG—UNLESS YOU WANT THAT OLD CRATE CRUSHED TO FIREWOOD.



## The Unexpected

THE LAST LORRY DREW LEVEL WITH STANTON. ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, HE RAN TO CATCH UP WITH THE VEHICLE . . .

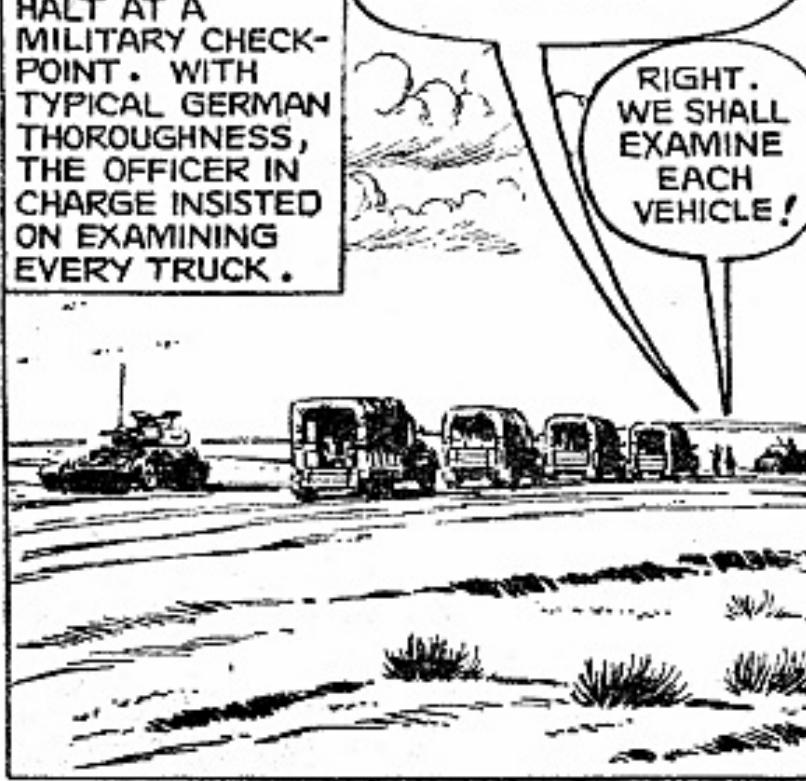
THEY'RE PRETTY CERTAIN TO BE GOING TO THE FRONT LINE. I'LL TAKE A LIFT WITH THEM . . .



AS THEY NEARED THE FRONT LINE, THE CONVOY GROUND TO A HALT AT A MILITARY CHECK-POINT. WITH TYPICAL GERMAN THOROUGHNESS, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE INSISTED ON EXAMINING EVERY TRUCK . . .

RATIONS, AMMUNITION AND STORES FOR THE SEVENTH ARTILLERY, HERR OBERLEUTNANT.

RIGHT. WE SHALL EXAMINE EACH VEHICLE!



STEALTHILY STANTON SLID FROM THE TRUCK. THE SOFT LAYER OF SAND MUFFLED HIS FOOTSTEPS AS HE DASHED FOR THE ONLY POSSIBLE COVER . . .



ANOTHER VEHICLE JOINED THE QUEUE AT THE CHECK POINT. STANTON, A FLUENT GERMAN-SPEAKER, SAT IN AMAZEMENT AS HE OVERHEARD A DISCUSSION OF A TOP GERMAN SECRET...

WE HAVE NINE DAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE FUEHRER'S VISIT. WHERE SHOULD THE MEETING TAKE PLACE?

I SUGGEST THE FIELD MARSHAL'S H.Q. AT SIDI-RAZLAT.



SLOWLY, STANTON GROUND OUT HIS CIGARETTE AS HE CAME TO THE END OF HIS STORY...

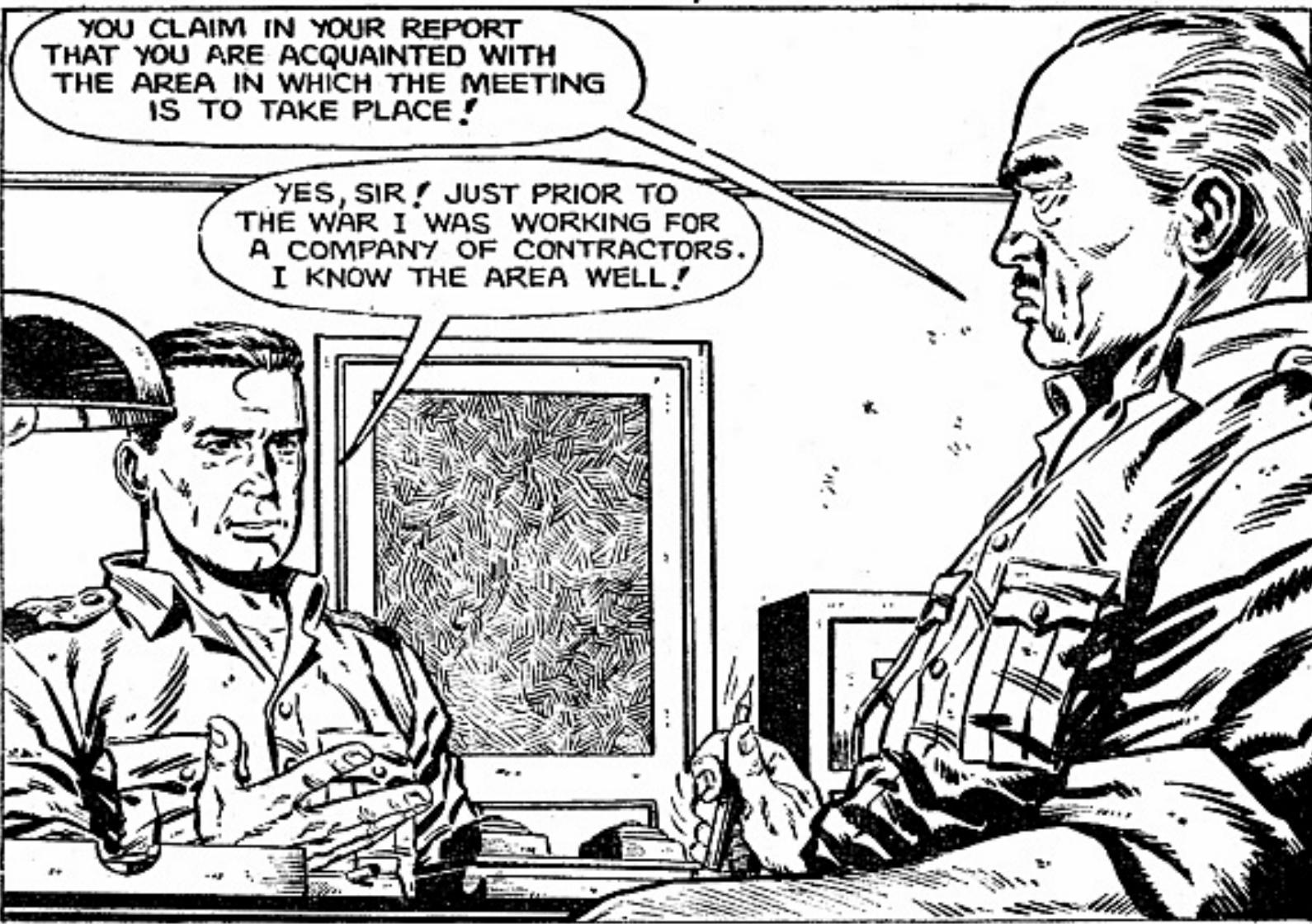
WELL, SIR, THE REST YOU KNOW. I SLIPPED AWAY AND WAS FOUND HALF DEAD BY A DESERT PATROL WHO BROUGHT ME IN.

I SEE!



YOU CLAIM IN YOUR REPORT  
THAT YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH  
THE AREA IN WHICH THE MEETING  
IS TO TAKE PLACE!

YES, SIR! JUST PRIOR TO  
THE WAR I WAS WORKING FOR  
A COMPANY OF CONTRACTORS.  
I KNOW THE AREA WELL!



IF A RAID  
IS ORGANISED ON  
SIDI-RAZLAT, STANTON,  
WILL YOU ACT AS  
GUIDE?

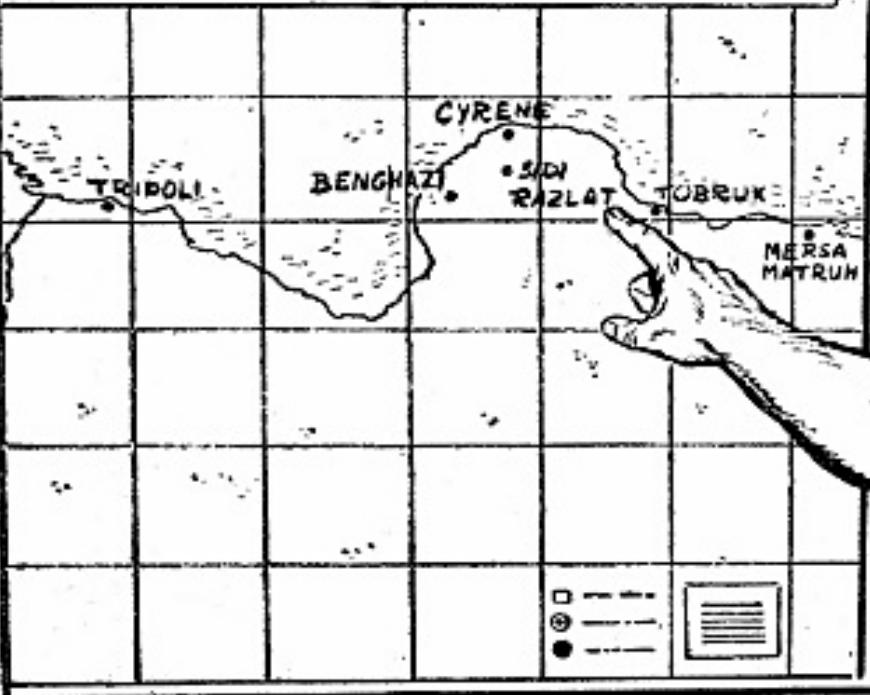
I'D BE GLAD TO, SIR.  
I HAVE A SCORE TO  
SETTLE FOR MY  
REGIMENT!



## Chapter 2. Stormy Handling

ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, COLONEL BRAYBROOKE ANALYSED THE HAZARDS OF SUCH AN OPERATION. THE CHOICE OF A COMMANDER WOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS . . .

WE NEED TO STRIKE ACCURATELY—AND FAST! JEFFCOTT'S THE STEADY, COOL-HEADED TYPE WE NEED FOR THIS JOB. HIM AND McGILL . . .



LATER THAT DAY, TWO COMMANDO OFFICERS, MAJOR JEFFCOTT AND CAPTAIN McGILL TOGETHER WITH CAPTAIN STANTON WERE GATHERED ROUND BRAYBROOKE'S DESK . . .

THE SUCCESS OF THIS VENTURE COULD BRING GERMANY TO HER KNEES! THAT'S WHY EACH MAN MUST BE HAND-PICKED!



McGILL'S FANATICAL HATRED OF THE GERMANS WAS LEGENDARY IN HIS UNIT.

## The Unexpected

NOT ONE OF THE COMMANDOS KNEW THEIR DESTINATION, BUT IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS OF TRAINING IN RUBBER DINGHIES, RUMOURS WERE RIFE...

HAVE YOU HEARD, MATE? WE'RE GOING TO BLOW UP A MINEFIELD IN ONE OF THEM NORWEGIAN FJORDS!

OH, ARE WE, PERKINS? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO FIND A DESERT ISLAND WHERE YOU CAN SLEEP IN THE SUN FOR THE DURATION! CUT THE YAPPING AND GET ON WITH THE JOB!



ALTHOUGH THE MEN WERE IN PEAK CONDITION, THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THEIR MISSION MEANT A RAPID RUN-THROUGH OF THE TECHNIQUES THEY WERE LIKELY TO NEED. STANTON'S QUICK GRASP OF THESE DETAILS DREW APPROVAL FROM EVEN THE MOST HARDENED COMMANDO.

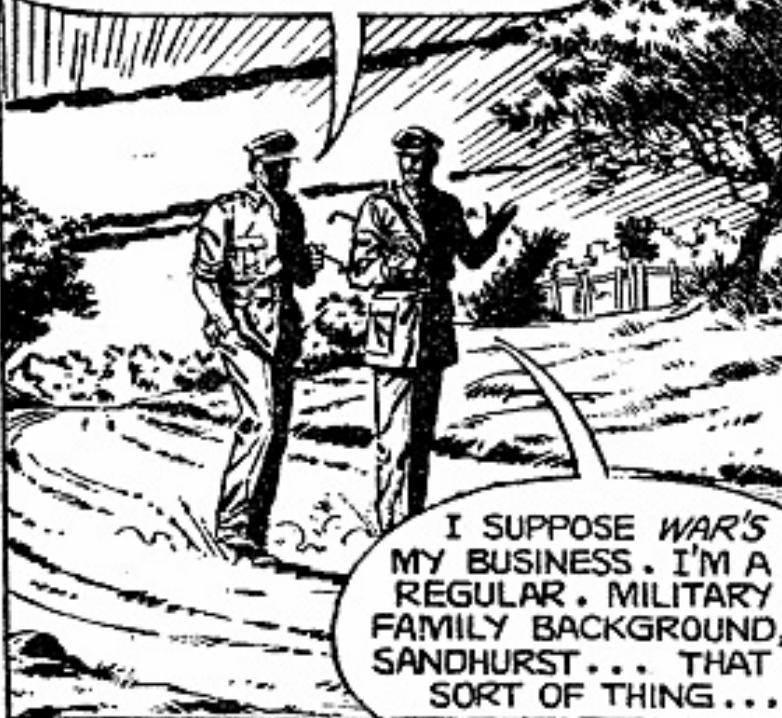


THAT BLOKE STANTON'S PICKING THINGS UP QUICK, SARGE?

HE'LL DO, I RECKON, CORPORAL!

THE MORE HE SAW OF STANTON, THE MORE MAJOR JEFFCOTT LIKED HIM. DURING THE TENSE, UNCERTAIN DAYS BEFORE THEIR EMBARKATION, THE TWO MEN BECAME FIRM FRIENDS . . .

BEFORE THE WAR BROKE OUT, I'D NEVER EVEN HELD A GUN . ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING WAS MY JOB. WHAT WAS YOURS ?



I SUPPOSE WAR'S  
MY BUSINESS. I'M A  
REGULAR. MILITARY  
FAMILY BACKGROUND,  
SANDHURST . . . THAT  
SORT OF THING . . .

SUDDENLY THEY RECEIVED ORDERS TO EMBARK FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. CAPTAIN MCGILL SUPERVISED THE LOADING OF EQUIPMENT ABOARD A SUBMARINE . . .

ARE YOU LAZY SLOBS  
GOING TO TAKE ALL DAY TO GET THOSE  
STORES ABOARD ?



'LAZY SLOBS'—HE'S GOT  
A NERVE ! THIS BOX  
WEIGHS A PERISHIN'  
TON !

KEEP YOUR  
HAIR ON, SARGE !  
MCGILL'S ALWAYS  
LIKE THIS BEFORE  
AN OP .

SERGEANT WHITE AND SPIDER PERKINS WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES TO FEEL THE STING OF MCGILL'S WHIPLASH TONGUE . . .

PICK UP  
YOUR FEET,  
KENNEDY !  
CAN'T YOU  
STAND UP,  
MAN ?



STONE THE  
CROWS ! ANYBODY'D  
THINK I FELL OVER  
FOR THE FUN  
OF IT !

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# The Unexpected

ONCE UNDER WAY, THE LONG SLEEK CRAFT SUBMERGED. THE COMMANDOS HAD TO ACCUSTOM THEMSELVES TO THE CRAMPED, STUFFY WORLD OF THE MEN WHO SPENT THEIR LIVES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SEA.



TWO DAYS OUT, MAJOR JEFFCOTT BRIEFED HIS MEN ...

THIS RAID IS VITAL! HITLER HIMSELF IS MEETING ROMMEL IN SIDI RAZLAT, HERE. OUR PLAN WILL BE TO ...

PHEW! WE'RE AIMING HIGH THIS TIME!

IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT COULD TRY THE NERVES OF THE COOLEST-HEADED VETERAN, CONSTANT BICKERING AND PETTY DIFFERENCES WERE COMMON . . .

LOOK, CAPTAIN MCGILL— THIS WAITING IS TRYING FOR ALL OF US, SO EASE UP ON THE MEN. YOU'RE RIDING THEM TOO HARD!

WHAT DOES HE KNOW? I CAME THROUGH THE RANKS—I UNDERSTAND THE MEN! IT'S NO GOOD BEING TOO SOFT!



BENEATH THE DARK, HOSTILE WAVES, THEY SURGED FORWARD UNTIL THE SUBMARINES WERE ONLY TWO MILES FROM THE CYRENAICAN COAST.

WE'RE NEARING YOUR DESTINATION, MAJOR JEFFCOTT!

THAT'LL BE A RELIEF TO THE MEN, LIEUTENANT HODGES! THEY'LL LIKE THE IDEA OF BREATHING GOOD FRESH AIR AGAIN!



## The Unexpected

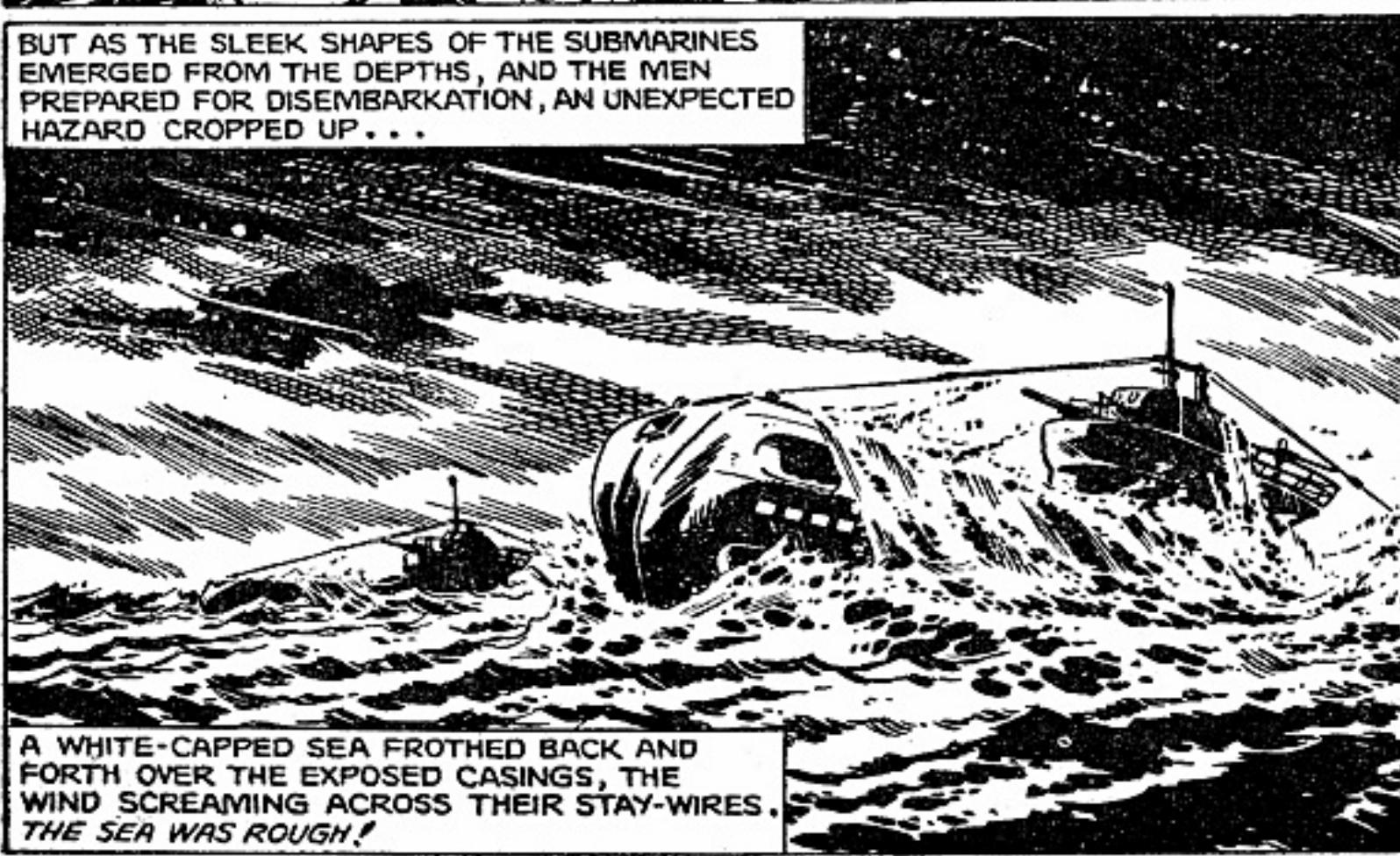
SOON THEY WERE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR MAJOR JEFFCOTT  
TO LOOK AT THE SHORE THROUGH THE PERISCOPE . . .

IT'S REALLY TOO DARK  
TO SEE PROPERLY, BUT  
EVERYTHING SEEMS  
QUIET .

GOOD-O! WE DON'T WANT  
ANY NAZI SNOOPERS ROUND  
WHEN WE TAKE A CRACK  
AT THEIR BOSS!



BUT AS THE SLEEK SHAPES OF THE SUBMARINES  
EMERGED FROM THE DEPTHS, AND THE MEN  
PREPARED FOR DISEMBARKATION, AN UNEXPECTED  
HAZARD CROPPED UP . . .



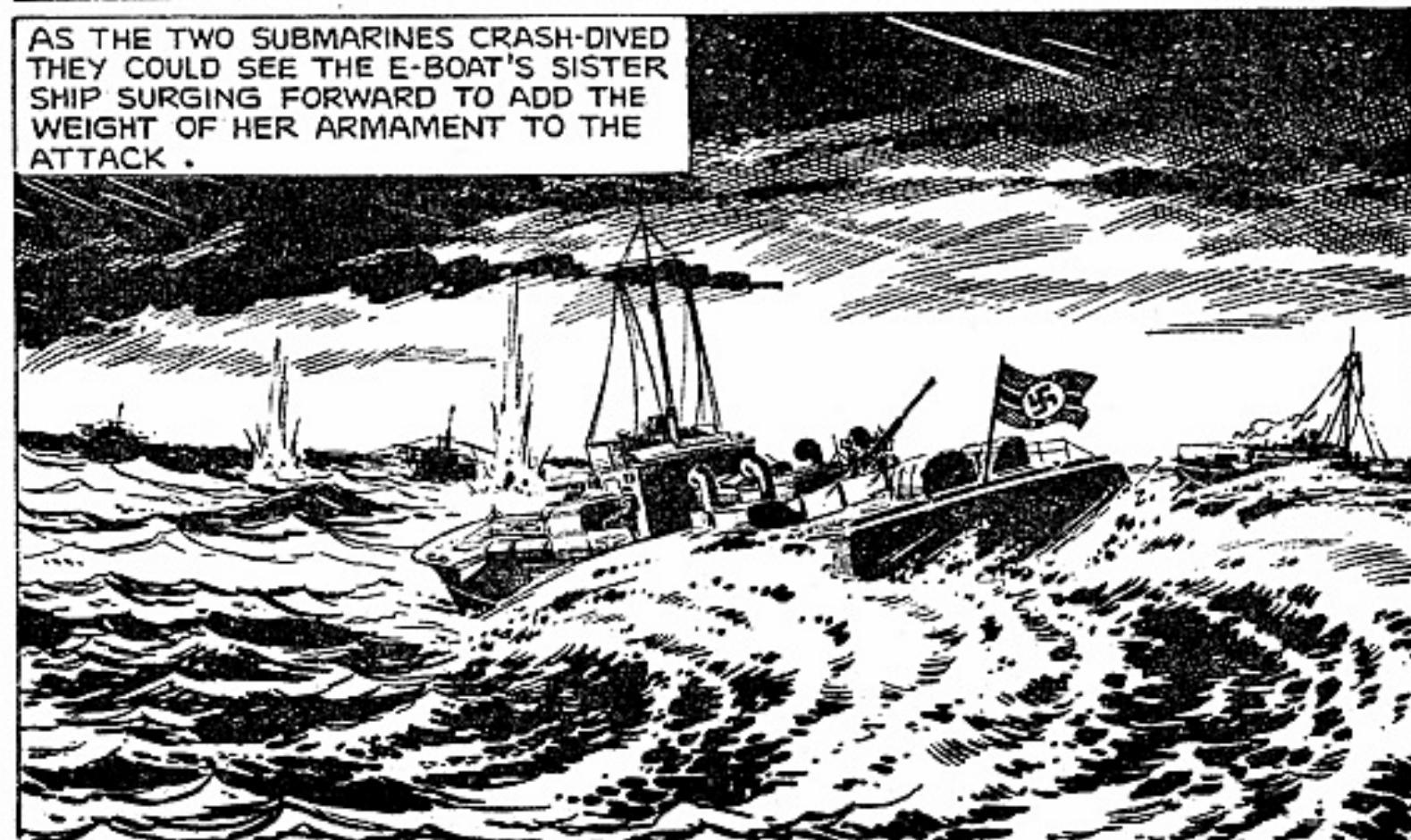
A WHITE-CAPPED SEA FROTHED BACK AND  
FORTH OVER THE EXPOSED CASINGS, THE  
WIND SCREAMING ACROSS THEIR STAY-WIRES,  
THE SEA WAS ROUGH!

AND AS THE FIRST RATING CLIMBED OUT ON TO THE WET,  
SLIPPERY PLATES, FURTHER DANGER REVEALED ITSELF...

CAP'N HODGES!  
GERMAN E-BOAT  
COMING UP  
FAST!



AS THE TWO SUBMARINES CRASH-DIVED  
THEY COULD SEE THE E-BOAT'S SISTER  
SHIP SURGING FORWARD TO ADD THE  
WEIGHT OF HER ARMAMENT TO THE  
ATTACK .



TAKING A LAST QUICK LOOK THROUGH THE PERISCOPE AS THEY PLUNGED DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS, LIEUTENANT HODGES SUDDENLY GAVE A GASP OF SURPRISE . . .

WELL, I'LL BE DARNED—THEY'RE TURNING AWAY!

THAT'S ODD! WHAT COULD HAVE MADE THEM CHANGE THEIR MINDS?



AFTER A SHORT WAIT, THEY ROSE AGAIN TO THE SURFACE—HALF EXPECTING TO LOOK STRAIGHT INTO THE CUTTING BOWS OF AN AVENGING E-BOAT!

THIS IS A SPOT OF LUCK, MAJOR! THOSE TWO JERRY BOATS COULD HAVE BLOWN US SKY-HIGH!

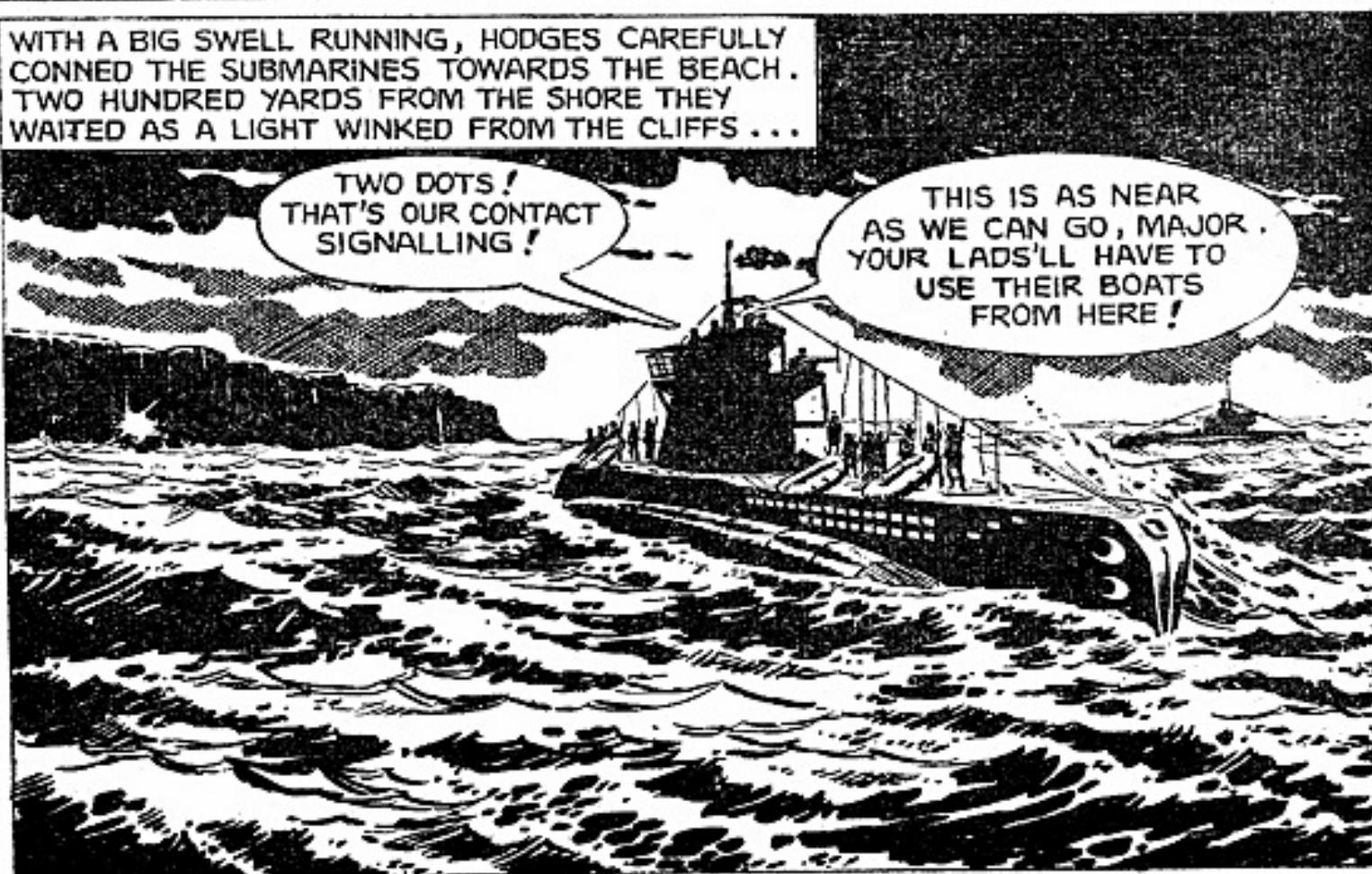
MAYBE THEY'VE GONE FOR REINFORCEMENTS, LIEUTENANT.



WITH A BIG SWELL RUNNING, HODGES CAREFULLY CONNED THE SUBMARINES TOWARDS THE BEACH. TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE SHORE THEY WAITED AS A LIGHT WINKED FROM THE CLIFFS . . .

TWO DOTS! THAT'S OUR CONTACT SIGNALLING!

THIS IS AS NEAR AS WE CAN GO, MAJOR. YOUR LADS'LL HAVE TO USE THEIR BOATS FROM HERE!



THE RUBBER DINGHIES, PITCHING AND TOSSING ON THE WIND-SWEPT SEA, WERE HARD TO BOARD . . .

SORRY, SIR! I SLIPPED ON THE WET DECK!



COME ON!  
GET IN AND STOP  
ACTING LIKE A  
CLOWN!

KENNEDY AND CAPTAIN MCGILL SET OFF TOWARDS THE BEACH, PADDLING FURIOUSLY AGAINST AN OFF-SHORE CURRENT AND A RISING WIND. SUDDENLY A HUGE WAVE HIT THE DINGHY . . .

WHAT  
THE  
HECK!



CORPORAL KENNEDY STRUGGLED TO THE SURFACE AND SPLASHED FORWARD WITH FEEBLE STROKES . . .

I CAN'T...  
KEEP GOING  
MUCH  
LONGER...

ALL RIGHT,  
KENNEDY, HANG  
ON! I'M  
COMING!



EVEN AS THE EXHAUSTED MAN BEGAN TO SINK BELOW THE WAVES, MCGILL'S STRONG ARM GRASPED HIM FIRMLY. FROM THE SUBMARINE, JEFFCOTT WATCHED . . .

McGILL AND I DON'T HIT IT OFF ALL THE TIME, BUT HE'S GOT NERVE, ALL RIGHT!



LEAVING KENNEDY LYING GASPING ON THE BEACH, MCGILL WALKED UP TO AN OLD ARAB WHO SAT HUDDLED UP, CLUTCHING A SMALL TORCH . . .

ALL IS WELL,  
EFFENDI! THERE ARE  
NO GERMANS ON  
THE CLIFF.

I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING  
THE TRUTH, YOU OLD BUZZARD!  
IF YOU'RE NOT, I'LL WRING  
YOUR NECK - PERSONALLY!



AT MCGILL'S SIGNAL, THE REST OF THE MEN ON THE SUBMARINE STRUGGLED TO PREPARE THEIR DINGHIES. BUT THE ANGRY SEAS KEPT THE DECK PERMANENTLY AWASH . . .



ONE BY ONE THE DINGHIES  
WERE LAUNCHED AND  
SUCCESSFULLY BOARDED,  
UNTIL SPIDER PERKINS  
TOOK HIS TURN . . .

WATCH IT, SPIDER - THIS  
IS NO TIME TO PLAY GAMES.  
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY,  
MATE ?



## The Unexpected

AS THE CLUSTER OF TINY BOATS LURCHED UNCERTAINLY TOWARDS THE DARK SHORE, SPIDER, WINCING WITH PAIN, WAS DRAGGED, DRIPPING AND MISERABLE, BACK TO THE DECK . . .

YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR ANKLE, TOSH! GOT A PAIN IN YOUR CHEST, TOO?

NOT LIKELY - I'M JUST FEELING FOR MY FAG-PAPERS. JUST MY LUCK - THEY'RE ALL DRENCHED!

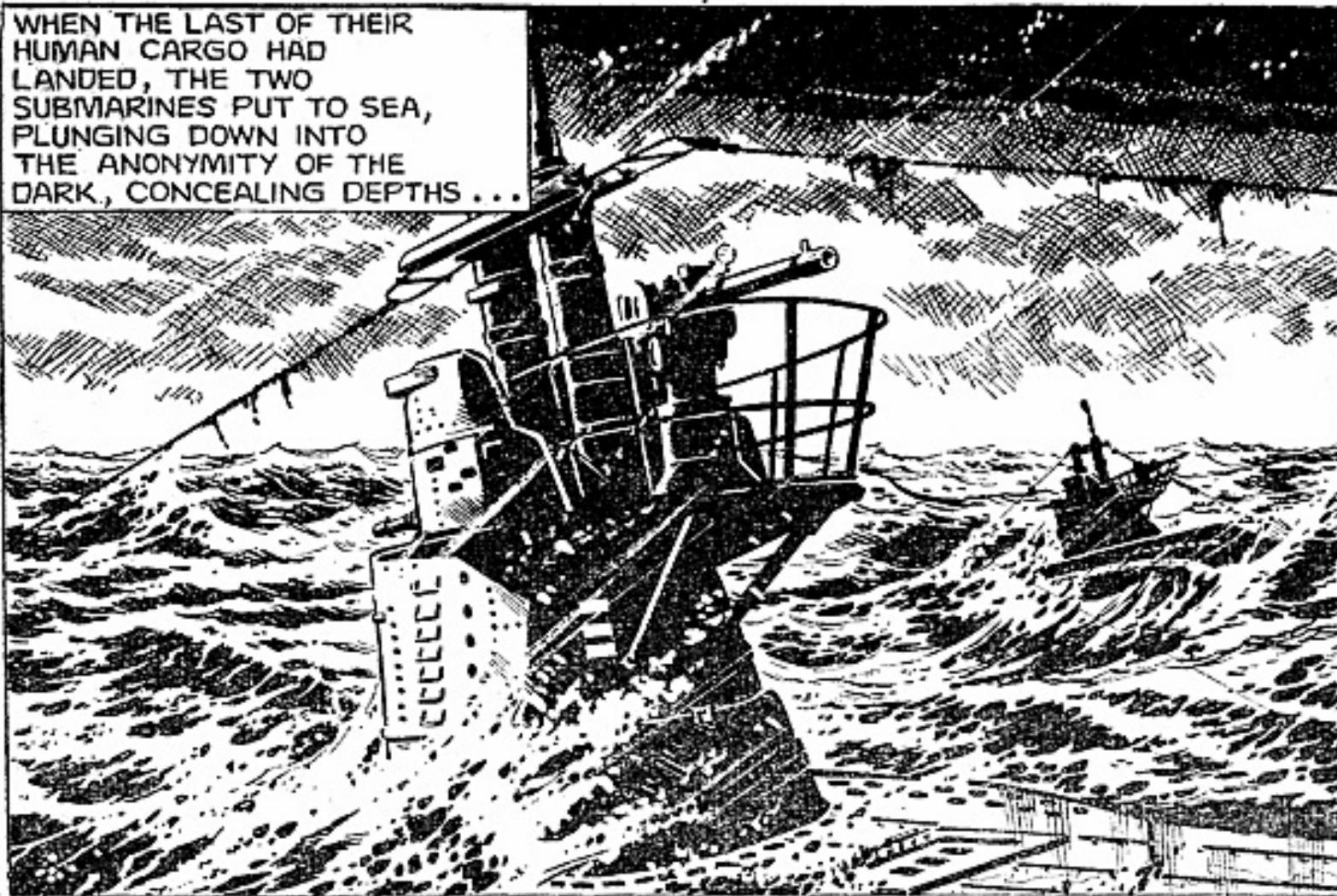


THE FIRST LANDING PARTY DRAGGED THEIR DINGHIES ASHORE, THEN LOOKED BACK AND SAW THEIR COMRADES ON THE SECOND SUBMARINE UNDERGOING THE HAZARDS THEY HAD ENDURED . . .

I PITY 'EM! OUR TRIP WAS NO HOLIDAY - BUT THE WIND'S RISEN SINCE THEN!



WHEN THE LAST OF THEIR HUMAN CARGO HAD LANDED, THE TWO SUBMARINES PUT TO SEA, PLUNGING DOWN INTO THE ANONYMITY OF THE DARK, CONCEALING DEPTHS . . .



ASHORE, JEFFCOTT AND MCGILL STUDIED THE CLIFFS WHICH ROSE STEEPLY FROM THE BEACH, TOWERING HIGH ABOVE THE SEA . . .

WE'RE IN TROUBLE, MAJOR. PERKINS IS OUR CLIMBING EXPERT AND HE BROKE HIS ANKLE ON THE SUB . . .

IT LOOKS AS IF IT'S UP TO ME, MCGILL. I'LL GO FIRST.

I'LL TAKE THE SECOND ROPE, MAJOR. I'VE DONE A LOT OF CLIMBING BACK HOME !



## Chapter 3. Dangerous Journey

MCGILL FELT IT WAS A BLOW TO HIS PRIDE WHEN STANTON VOLUNTEERED TO SCALE THE CLIFF. BUT IT WAS A TASK THAT MCGILL KNEW WAS BEYOND HIS OWN CAPABILITIES.

CAN YOU MAKE IT, STANTON? THIS WON'T BE A HOLIDAY CLIMB!

WHY SHOULDN'T HE MAKE IT? HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR GUIDE — ALL RIGHT, STANTON, GUIDE US UP THAT!

THE TWO CLIMBERS BEGAN TO EDGE THEIR WAY UP THE TORTUOUS CLIFF. MCGILL, IMPATIENT WITH THE DELAY IN THE OPERATION, SWUNG ROUND IRRITABLY ON THE MEN . . .

COME ON, YOU USELESS LOT! GET SOME ROPES ROUND THE EQUIPMENT, READY FOR LIFTING!

THE CLIMB WAS SLOW BUT STEADY UNTIL MAJOR JEFFCOTT SUDDENLY GAVE A SHOUT OF ALARM. HE FELT A FOOT-HOLD GIVING WAY BENEATH HIS CLIMBING BOOTS . . .



BUT BEFORE THE MAJOR COULD SECURE A FIRMER GRIP, THE ROCK LEDGE BROKE AWAY — LEAVING HIM HANGING BY HIS FINGERS . . .



WITH THE HELP OF STANTON'S ENCOURAGEMENT, JEFFCOTT FOUND A TOE-HOLD ON THE SOLID LEDGE ON WHICH HIS COMPANION WAS STANDING.



THE QUIET CONFIDENCE IN STANTON'S VOICE SURPRISED THE MAJOR. THIS MAN WAS MORE THAN A HOLIDAY CLIMBER — HE WAS AN EXPERT!



EXERTING ALL HIS ENERGY, STANTON JERKED THE MAJOR TOWARDS HIM ...





YOU'RE FULL OF SURPRISES, CAPTAIN! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US YOU WERE A TRAINED ROCK-CLIMBER?

I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK I WAS SHOOTING A LINE, MAJOR.

TO JEFFCOTT, THE EXCUSE SOUNDED THIN, BUT HE THOUGHT PERHAPS STANTON HAD BECOME SENSITIVE TO CAPTAIN MCGILL'S SARCASTIC MANNER.

THE TWO MEN RESUMED THEIR CLIMB AND MADE GOOD TIME TO THE TOP OF THE CLIFF. A COIL OF ROPE SNAKED OUT TO THE IMPATIENT COMMANDOS WAITING BELOW.



## The Unexpected

HEAVY ROPES WERE HAULED UP BY THE LIGHT LINE THE TWO CLIMBERS HAD CARRIED. WHEN THEY WERE SECURED, THE COMMANDOS BEGAN CLAWING THEIR WAY UP THE CLIFF.

SERGEANT WHITE, GET UP TOP AND KEEP THIS LOT MOVING. WE DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ALL NIGHT!

RIGHT, SIR!

I WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE ANY JERRY WHO GETS IN HIS WAY TONIGHT!



AS THE EXPLOSIVES WERE HAULED UP, A COMMANDO HAD TO 'RIDE' THE LOAD TO HOLD IT AWAY FROM THE ROUGH SURFACE OF THE ROCKS.

IN AN HOUR, THE MEN AND ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT WERE ASSEMBLED AT THE TOP OF THE CLIFF.

IT'S TIME WE WERE ON OUR WAY! THE CLIMB TOOK LONGER THAN WE ANTICIPATED.

ALL RIGHT! ON YOUR FEET! SERGEANT WHITE— GET THE MEN MOVING!



COR! IT'S HARD ENOUGH GETTING UP THIS WAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW CAPTAIN STANTON CLIMBED IT...



THE COMMANDOS  
PRESSED FORWARD  
STEALTHILY INTO  
THE NIGHT . . .

PICK IT UP PROPERLY,  
SKINNER. DON'T WANDER  
ALONG CUDDLING IT!

McGILL'S ASKING FOR A  
PUNCH UP THE HOOTER.  
HE MAKES ME SICK!

McGILL'S BARK'S  
WORSE THAN HIS  
BITE, LADDIE. AND  
HE'S A GOOD  
FIGHTING  
MAN . . .

DAWN SHOULD BE UP IN  
HALF-AN-HOUR, MAJOR. BUT  
WE SHOULD HAVE REACHED  
THE WADI BY THEN.

GOOD! IT'LL GIVE THE  
MEN A CHANCE TO  
REST.



## The Unexpected

THE FIRST SIGNS OF APPROACHING DAY WERE CUTTING THE DARK SKY AS THEY ARRIVED AT THE DRIED UP RIVER BED . . .

TEST IT FOR MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS — BUT I DOUBT IF ANYONE'S BEEN NEAR THIS PLACE FOR YEARS.

RIGHT! I'LL START CHECKING THE REAR, IF YOU LIKE!



WITH TWO MEN POSTED ON GUARD, THE REST SPREAD OUT TO FIND NOOKS AND CRANNIES WHERE THEY COULD SLEEP THE DAYLIGHT HOURS AWAY IN PEACE . . .

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHUM, DON'T YOU LIKE MUSIC?

IF HITLER HAD HEARD YOU PLAY THAT SECRET WEAPON YOU CALL A MOUTH ORGAN, HE'D HAVE JAGGED IT IN YEARS AGO, SARGE!



THE BRIGHT BURNING BALL OF THE SUN CLIMBED HIGH OVERHEAD, BEATING DOWN FEROCIOUSLY ON THE WADI. THE COMMANDOS SHIFTED RESTLESSLY IN THEIR SLEEP...

WAKE UP, STANTON! THERE'S A PLANE COMING. DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A JERRY...

WHAT? EH? WHERE IS IT?



AS THE OUTLINES OF THE PLANE BECAME MORE DISTINCT, BOTH MEN IDENTIFIED IT ...

IT'S A JERRY SPOTTER!

I DON'T THINK HE'S SEEN US, MAJOR. HE HASN'T ALTERED HIS COURSE.



## The Unexpected

NOTHING MORE WAS SEEN OF THE AIRCRAFT, AND AS THE EVENING DREW NEAR, THE MEN CHECKED THEIR WEAPONS AND BEGAN PREPARING FOR THE CRITICAL TASK AHEAD.



AS NIGHT FELL, McGILL AND A FEW PICKED MEN MADE READY TO LEAVE . . .

GOOD LUCK, McGILL . WE'LL GIVE YOU TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES TO BLOW UP THE GENERATING STATION AND MEET US .

WE'LL DO IT, SIR!



NOW THEY WERE ALMOST READY TO BEGIN THE MOST PERILOUS AND DIFFICULT TASK OF THEIR SERVICE CAREERS . . .

NOT LONG TO GO NOW, BILL—NERVOUS?

YOU'RE JOOKING!  
I RECKON CAPTAIN STANTON WILL SEE WE GET THROUGH THIS ALL RIGHT!



IN THE DARKNESS BEYOND, MCGILL'S PARTY HAD MADE RAPID PROGRESS.

SERGEANT WHITE—CREATE A DIVERSION! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GET BEHIND THAT SENTRY.

OKAY, SIR! IT'S IN THE BAG!



## The Unexpected

SOUNDLESSLY, MCGILL'S GROUP BEGAN TO SPREAD OUT . . .



SNOWY WHITE LOBBED A STONE INTO THE BUSHES. THE RUSE WORKED. THE GERMAN SENTRY STEPPED AWAY FROM THE BUILDING TO INVESTIGATE. MCGILL FLATTENED HIMSELF SOUNDLESSLY AGAINST THE WALL'S CONCEALING BLACKNESS . . .



NEXT SECOND, MCGILL HAD THE SENTRY IN AN IRON GRIP.

ALL RIGHT, YOU BLOKES! THE CAPTAIN'S DONE HIS PART. LET'S GET MOVING.

AAGH...



THE REST OF THE PARTY MADE A DASH FOR THE DOOR OF THE GENERATING PLANT. MCGILL STOOD DEFIANTLY BY THE DOOR, READY TO INTERCEPT ANY UNWANTED VISITORS . . .

THAT'S FUNNY—I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT BY STANTON'S FIRM . . . AN ENGLISH COMPANY . . .

Ooooh  
GIVE US THREE MINUTES, SIR. THIS LOOKS LIKE BEING AN EASY JOB.

THOMPSON ELECTRICAL  
& LTD.  
CAPETOWN - SOUTH AFRICA



WITHIN RECORD TIME, THE OTHERS HAD COMPLETED THEIR TASK. TOGETHER THEY HARED BACK INTO THE DARKNESS, SNOWY JOINING THE WIRE LEADS TO THE DETONATING BOX.

OKAY—  
NOW!

WELL DONE,  
SARGE! THAT'S  
A NEAT BIT  
OF WORK!

THEIR MISSION SUCCESSFUL, THEY PACKED THEIR EQUIPMENT AND SET OFF...

IF THE REST OF THE RAID GOES AS SMOOTHLY AS THAT, WE'LL BE SITTING PRETTY!

AND WE'RE  
TEN MINUTES  
AHEAD OF  
SCHEDULE.

# The Unexpected

43

THEY ARRIVED AT THE RENDEZVOUS BEFORE MAJOR JEFFCOTT'S MAIN PARTY. BUT SOON THE OTHERS CAME ON THE SCENE . . .

DID  
EVERYTHING  
GO OFF ALL  
RIGHT, MCGILL?

SURE, SIR! THERE  
WAS ONLY ONE SENTRY.  
I SETTLED HIM WITH  
NO TROUBLE.

YOU  
KILLED  
HIM?

FOR SOME REASON, STANTON SEEMED SURPRISED  
AT MCGILL'S METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE GERMAN . . .

MORE CONFIDENT NOW, THE COMMANDOS TURNED  
ONCE MORE TO THE REAL TASK AHEAD OF THEM.  
HARDENED BY MONTHS OF RIGID TRAINING, THEY  
MADE GOOD TIME TO SIDI RAZLAT. SUDDENLY . . .

STONE THE CROWS —  
IT'S A DOG! LET'S  
HOPE ITS OWNER  
DOESN'T COME OUT  
TO INVESTIGATE!

FREEZE!



## The Unexpected

BUT IT SEEMED  
LUCK WAS AGAINST  
THEM . . .

I COULD PICK HIM  
OFF LIKE A CLAY-  
PIGEON, SIR! HOW  
ABOUT IT?

NO, MCGILL!  
DON'T SHOOT! HE  
MAY NOT HAVE  
SEEN US.



WITH A SIGH OF EXASPERATION, THE ARAB TURNED HIS BACK ON THE SKINNY, CRINGING ANIMAL AND SLOUCHED BACK INTO THE HOUSE .

ACCURSED  
CREATURE! ALLAH  
ONLY KNOWS WHY  
I KEEP HIM . . .



THEIR RUBBER-SOLED COMMANDO BOOTS MADE LITTLE NOISE ON THE SANDY ROAD AS THEY MOVED STEALTHILY THROUGH THE NIGHT. AFTER SOME TIME, THEY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF A SCATTERED NATIVE VILLAGE .

THIS IS ANTEDABIA, A  
NATIVE VILLAGE! IT  
SHOULD BE DESERTED  
AT THIS TIME OF  
NIGHT.

PASS THE  
WORD DOWN TO  
THE MEN TO BE AS  
QUIET AS POSSIBLE  
AS WE GO  
THROUGH . . .



A CAR-LOAD OF GERMAN OFFICERS, RETURNING LATE FROM A NIGHT'S REVELRY, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO CAREFREE HAD THEY KNOWN HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO THEIR ENEMY...

THERE'S A CAR COMING THIS WAY, SIR!



MCGILL'S FINGER ITCHED ON THE TRIGGER AS THE CAR'S BLAZING HEADLIGHTS ILLUMINATED THE SQUALID ARAB DWELLINGS . . .

LONG LIVE THE FATHERLAND — AND DEATH TO OUR ENEMIES!



WITHOUT FURTHER MISHAP, THEY CAME IN SIGHT OF THEIR DESTINATION — ROMMEL'S H.Q. AT SIDI RAZLAT, DEEP IN THE GREEN BELT OF CYRENAICA.

WHERE IS THE ENTRANCE? I CAN'T SEE ONE FROM HERE.

THE BUILDING IS IN THE FORM OF A SQUARE, WITH AN INNER COURTYARD. THE ONLY ENTRANCE IS THROUGH THE ARCHWAY ON THE OTHER SIDE!



# Chapter 4. *The Jaws Close*

IN HUSHED TONES,  
THEY DISCUSSED  
THE PLAN OF  
ACTION . . .

THERE'S A  
GATE-WAY THROUGH  
THE WIRE, OPPOSITE  
THE COURTYARD!

THAT WILL BE  
GUARDED. WE'D BETTER  
CUT THROUGH THE WIRE  
HERE, AND TAKE THE  
GUARDS FROM  
THE REAR!



NO GERMANS WERE IN SIGHT AND ONLY THE COILED BARBED WIRE FENCE GAVE ANY INDICATION OF THE WARTIME USE OF THE BUILDING.

SERGEANT, TAKE A COUPLE OF MEN AND CUT A GAP THROUGH THE WIRE, WE'LL COVER YOU!

CONWAY AND OSBORNE,  
GET YOUR CUTTERS OUT  
AND FOLLOW ME.  
NO NOISE!



BUT SOMETHING WAS WORRYING MCGILL. IT WAS BEGINNING TO SEEM TO HIM THAT THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS WORKING OUT TOO EASILY.

IT'S QUIET! TOO QUIET! I DON'T LIKE IT!

WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM THE FRONT LINE HERE. THEY PROBABLY THINK THEY DON'T NEED A HEAVY GUARD!



AT A SIGNAL FROM THE SERGEANT, THE COMMANDOS MOVED QUICKLY THROUGH THE GAP THEY HAD CUT IN THE WIRE, AND GROUPED IN THE SHADOWS OF THE BUILDING.

I CAN SEE THE GATE AND A SMALL GUARD HOUSE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE GUARD, MAJOR!



NO, YOU DON'T.  
SERGEANT WHITE AND CORPORAL KENNEDY!  
— COME WITH ME!

## The Unexpected

IGNORING STANTON'S PROTESTS, THE THREE MEN FLITTED THROUGH THE SHADOWS TOWARDS THE GATE.

THERE'S NOBODY ABOUT AT ALL, SIR!

I DON'T GET IT! IF THE BIG CHEESE WAS HERE, THIS PLACE SHOULD BE FULL WITH JERRIES!

I'VE A FEELING SOMETHING IS GOING TO BREAK, SOON, SO STAY ON YOUR TOES. CORPORAL, OPEN THAT GATE — WE MAY WANT TO GET OUT IN A HURRY!

McGILL'S FIGHTING INSTINCT TOLD HIM THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG, AND SOMEHOW HE FELT THAT STANTON, WHOM HE HAD NEVER LIKED, WAS RESPONSIBLE.

THE PLACE IS DESERTED, MAJOR! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK SOMEONE HAS GOT HIS FACTS MIXED ON THIS TRIP.

THIS IS THE PLACE I TELL YOU!

STANTON! YOU SEEM TO KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND. YOU LEAD THE WAY!

CAUTIOUSLY, CAPTAIN STANTON, MADE HIS WAY INTO THE COURTYARD, HIS GUN READY FOR ACTION . . .

IT'S ALL  
CLEAR - COME  
QUICKLY!

I'VE GOT A  
FEELING THERE'S  
SOME TRICKERY GOING  
ON, MAJOR . . .

WHILE I'M  
RUNNING THE SHOW  
WE CARRY OUT  
ORDERS, MCGILL.

STANDING TO ONE SIDE, CAPTAIN STANTON WATCHED AS THE COMMANDOS  
CREPT SILENTLY INTO THE WALLED COURTYARD, THEN FOLLOWED THEM INTO  
THE SHADOWS .

IT'S DARK  
IN HERE. CAN'T  
SEE A THING!  
I DON'T LIKE IT!

WHERE'S STANTON?  
HE KNOWS THE WAY  
INTO THE BUILDING.

SUDDENLY, A SHARP ORDER IN GERMAN BROKE THE SILENCE. INSTANTLY THE BRITISH SOLDIERS WERE BLINDED BY POWERFUL LIGHTS . . .

IT'S BLINDING!  
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

WHAT THE HECK . . .



AS THE COMMANDOS' EYES BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE LIGHT, THEY FOUND THEY HAD WALKED RIGHT INTO A NEATLY LAID TRAP!

TELL YOUR MEN TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS, MAJOR! ANY FALSE HEROICS WILL ONLY CAUSE UNNECESSARY BLOODESHED!

PERISHIN' NAZIS! I'LL TAKE SOME OF 'EM WITH ME BEFORE I LAY MY GUN DOWN!

WELL, I'LL BE . . .



A FAMILIAR VOICE BEHIND THEM BROUGHT THEM SWINGING ROUND ON THEIR HEELS . . .

YOU'D BETTER DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, MAJOR JEFFCOTT — OUR TROOPS HAVE ORDERS TO FIRE IF YOU SHOW ANY SIGN OF RESISTANCE !

SO YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, STANTON ! I'VE NEVER TRUSTED YOU FROM THE BEGINNING . . .

CORPORAL KENNEDY STARED AT STANTON UNBELIEVINGLY . . . THIS WAS THE MAN HE HAD REGARDED AS A HERO — A NAZI SPY !

THAT TWO-FACED PERISHER STANTON ! I'LL FIX HIM !

EASY WITH THAT GRENADE, CORP. DON'T LET THE JERRIES SEE IT . . .

## The Unexpected

SLOWLY THE CORPORAL EASED THE GRENADE BEHIND HIS BACK, WHILE THE SERGEANT LEANED FORWARD TO JERK OUT THE PIN.



WITH THE CAPTURE OF ALL THE COMMANDOS, THE GERMANS WERE TO PUT INTO OPERATION THE LAST PART OF THEIR PLAN . . . THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TWO SUBMARINES WHICH WERE TO PICK UP THE COMMANDOS . . .



ANY ILLUSIONS THE HAPLESS MEN MAY HAVE HAD WERE QUICKLY DESTROYED BY THE JEERS OF THE MAN THEY HAD KNOWN AS STANTON.

SO MUCH FOR THE UNBEATABLE BRITISH COMMANDOS! IT HAS AMUSED ME GREATLY, WATCHING YOU ALL GO TO SO MUCH TROUBLE OVER A NON-EXISTENT MEETING!



THERE WAS ONE QUESTION THAT WAS PUZZLING MAJOR JEFFCOTT . . .

WHY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE BACK ON THAT CLIFF, IF YOU INTENDED TO LEAD US INTO THIS TRAP? AT LEAST THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE DEATH NOT ON YOUR CONSCIENCE!

THAT IS SIMPLE, MAJOR — I WILL EXPLAIN . . .



YOUR DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNIMPORTANT IN ITSELF, BUT WE WANTED ALL OF YOU. WITHOUT A LEADER, THE WHOLE RAID MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.

TO THINK I LOOKED UPON YOU AS A PERSONAL FRIEND . . .



IN ONE LIGHTNING MOVEMENT, KENNEDY DREW BACK HIS ARM—AND HURLED THE GRENADE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF HIS STRENGTH AT THE SEARCHLIGHT'S TAUNTING BEAM . . .

DOWN EVERYBODY!

HIMMEL! A GRENADE!



VICIOUS GUNFIRE RAKED THE COURTYARD AS THE GRENADE BLEW THE SEARING SEARCHLIGHT TO BITS, PLUNGING EVERYTHING INTO DARKNESS . . .

HIMMEL!  
I CANNOT  
SEE THE  
ENGLANDERS . . .

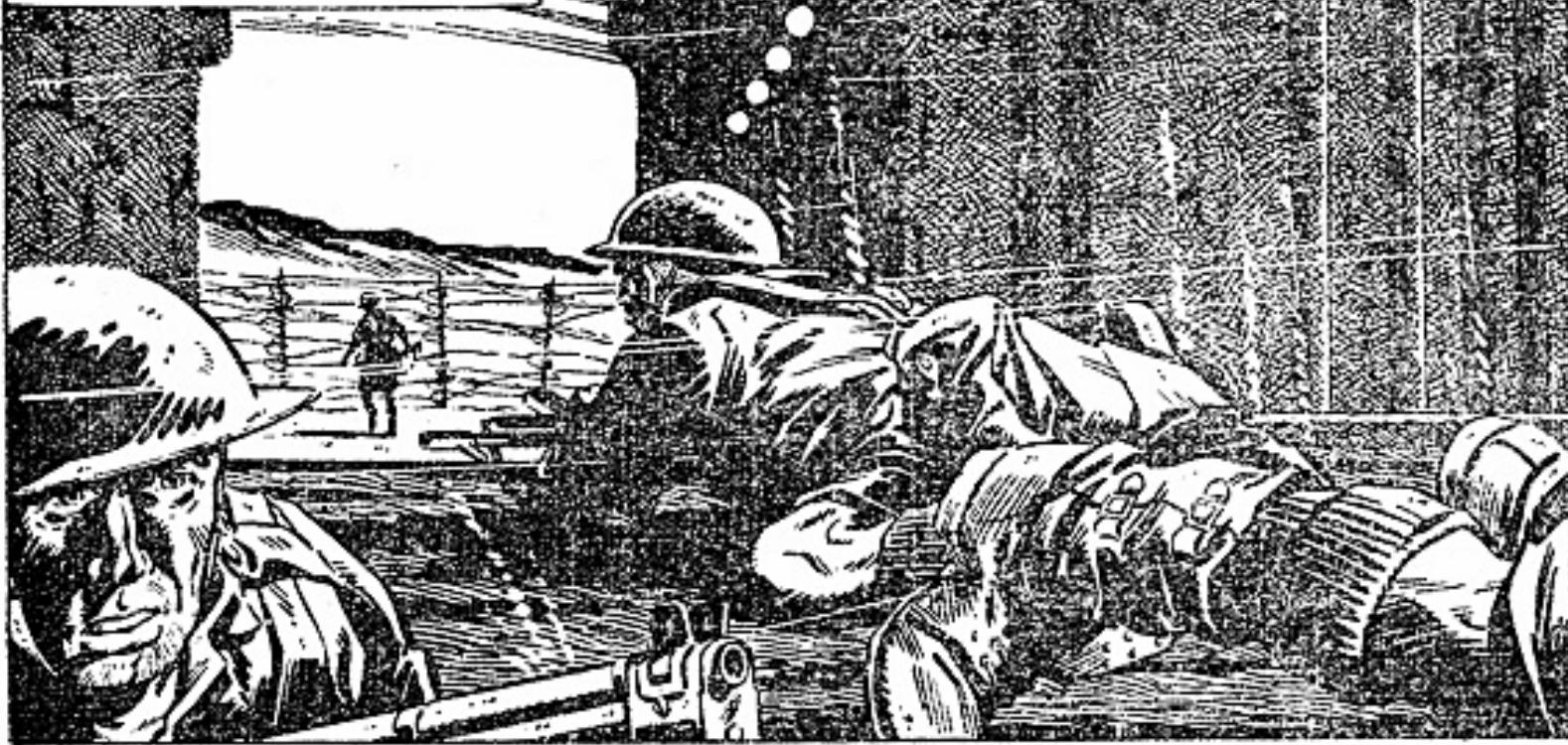
NICE WORK,  
MATE! THAT'LL  
EVEN THINGS  
UP A BIT!

AAA...



EVEN AS MCGILL'S OUTFLUNG BODY MADE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND, HE SAW THROUGH THE FIRE-SLASHED DARKNESS, THE FIGURE OF "STANTON" MOVING SWIFTLY OUT OF THE COURTYARD . . .

OH NO, MY TWO-FACED FRIEND! YOU'RE NOT WRIGGLING OFF THE HOOK AS EASILY AS THAT!



MCGILL'S TEMPER WAS NEVER FAR FROM THE SURFACE, AND NOW, SEEING THE MAN WHO HAD LED THEM INTO THIS DEATH TRAP CALMLY WALKING OUT, IT BUBBLED UP IN A FURIOUS DESIRE FOR REVENGE .

EEECH . . .  
WE MUST CHARGE THEM. IF REINFORCEMENTS ARE BROUGHT IN, WE'LL HAVE HAD IT, LYING HERE! HEY! WHERE'S MCGILL GOING?

AAA . . .



JEFFCOTT  
STARED AT THE  
RETREATING  
FIGURE . . .

McGILL! WHERE D'YOU THINK  
YOU'RE GOING? COME BACK  
TO YOUR MEN — AT ONCE!  
THAT'S AN ORDER!

I'LL TELL YOU  
WHERE I'M GOING,  
ALL RIGHT . . .

IN A VOICE THAT RASPED  
ITS SCORN, McGILL SPAT  
OUT THE REAL REASON FOR  
HIS APPARENT DESERTION . . .

STANTON KNOWS WHEN AND WHERE OUR  
SUBS ARE PICKING US UP. I'VE GOT TO STOP  
HIM GOING TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS . . .  
BESIDES, HE DOUBLE-CROSSED US . . .

McGILL'S  
RIGHT! IF JERRY  
GETS TO KNOW,  
NONE OF US  
WILL GET AWAY  
ALIVE .

BUT, WITHOUT FURTHER ARGUMENT, MCGILL HAD SLIPPED OUT UNDER THE ARCH AND WAS SWALLOWED UP IN THE DARK BEYOND . . .

I'M AFRAID SERGEANT WHITE'S BEEN HIT, SIR . . . AND WE'VE TWO WOUNDED !

RIGHT, DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR THE SERGEANT, KENNEDY !



FOR THE MOMENT THE COMMANDOS HELD THE UPPER HAND - BUT IT COULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE FRESH GERMAN TROOPS ARRIVED. THEN IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY . . .

OKAY, MEN - LET'S SORT 'EM OUT !

RELENTLESSLY THEY CUT DOWN THE LAST DESPERATE REMNANTS OF NAZI STORMTROOPERS .

## The Unexpected

OUT IN THE VILLAGE  
McGILL PEERED CAUTIOUSLY  
FROM THE DOORWAY  
OF AN OLD ARAB DWELLING . . .

ENJOY YOUR  
WALK, STANTON —  
IT'S THE LAST YOU'LL  
EVER HAVE!

BUT EVEN AS HE PLANNED STANTON'S  
DEATH, HIS OWN LIFE HUNG PRECARIOUSLY  
IN THE BALANCE . . .

PURE CHANCE DREW McGILL'S HEAD BACK INTO THE SHADOWS  
AS THE GERMAN SNIPER'S BULLET CUT STRAIGHT AND TRUE  
INTO THE WALL OF THE HOUSE, NOT SIX INCHES FROM HIS FACE!

THAT WAS  
TOO CLOSE FOR  
COMFORT, SNIPER —  
AH, I SEE YOUR  
HIDEOUT.

McGILL WAS AS QUICK AS A PANTHER. HE LEAPED ACROSS THE SPACE BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES AND SEIZED THE ASTONISHED GERMAN BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO FIRE AGAIN ...

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THAT RIFLE, FRITZ.

NO...NO...

SNATCHING THE GERMAN'S RIFLE, MCGILL PURSUED HIS PREY DOWN THE STREET, HIS EYES COLD STEEL IN A GRIM, MERCILESS FACE ...

OBERLEUTNANT STANTON! YOU'VE BETRAYED US, WEARING A BRITISH UNIFORM. NOW I'LL GIVE YOU DEATH FROM A GERMAN BULLET!

NO, WAIT,  
McGILL—I'LL HELP  
YOU, JUST GIVE ME  
A CHANCE TO  
...AAGH!

## The Unexpected

THERE WAS NO PITY IN MCGILL'S FACE AS HE GAZED DOWN AT THE MAN THEY HAD ONCE TRUSTED — AND WHO HAD LED THEM WITHOUT CONSCIENCE INTO THE VERY JAWS OF DEATH.



CARRYING THEIR WOUNDED, THE COMMANDO SURVIVORS RETREATED THROUGH THE VILLAGE STREETS, UNDER COVER OF A CURTAIN OF BLAZING LEAD . . .

OKAY, LADS, LET'S  
GO . . . THIS DUMP'S GOING  
TO BE UNHEALTHY SOON . . .



FALLING BACK UNDER THE VICIOUS RAKING STREAM OF FIRE FROM THE COMMANDO REARGUARD, A WOUNDED NAZI OFFICER, HIS EYES BLAZING WITH PAIN AND FURY, TRIED TO RE-ORGANISE HIS DEPLETED FORCE . . .

BUT THERE ARE NO FIGHTING MEN LEFT IN HEADQUARTERS, SIR!

THEN GIVE THE GUNS TO CLERKS, COOKS - ANYBODY, YOU DOLT! THE ENGLANDERS MUST NOT ESCAPE!

DESPERATION LENT SPEED TO JEFFCOTT'S MEN. GRADUALLY, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RETREATING COMMANDOS AND THEIR PURSUERS WIDENED . . .

WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF THE JERRIES REACH THE BEACH BEFORE WE DO, SIR - WE'LL BE CUT OFF!

I KILLED STANTON BEFORE HE COULD TELL THEM WHERE OUR RENDEZVOUS WAS TO TAKE PLACE! IF WE CAN LOSE THE JERRIES IN THE DARK - WE'LL BE OKAY!

## The Unexpected

KEEPING UP THEIR SWIFT PACE THEY SOON ARRIVED AT THE RENDEZVOUS. SPOTTING THE DARK SILHOUETTES OF THE TWO SUBMARINES THEY FLASHED THE SIGNAL, AND SHORTLY THE DINGHIS WERE ON THEIR WAY.



THE JOURNEY PASSED UNEVENTFULLY AND IN DUE TIME THE SURVIVORS OF THE PARTY LANDED AT THEIR BASE IN EGYPT.



TWO DAYS AFTER THE RAID, COLONEL BRAYBROOKE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE FULL REPORT OF THE OPERATION . . .

I CAN'T SEE WHAT THE GERMANS HOPED TO GAIN FROM THIS!

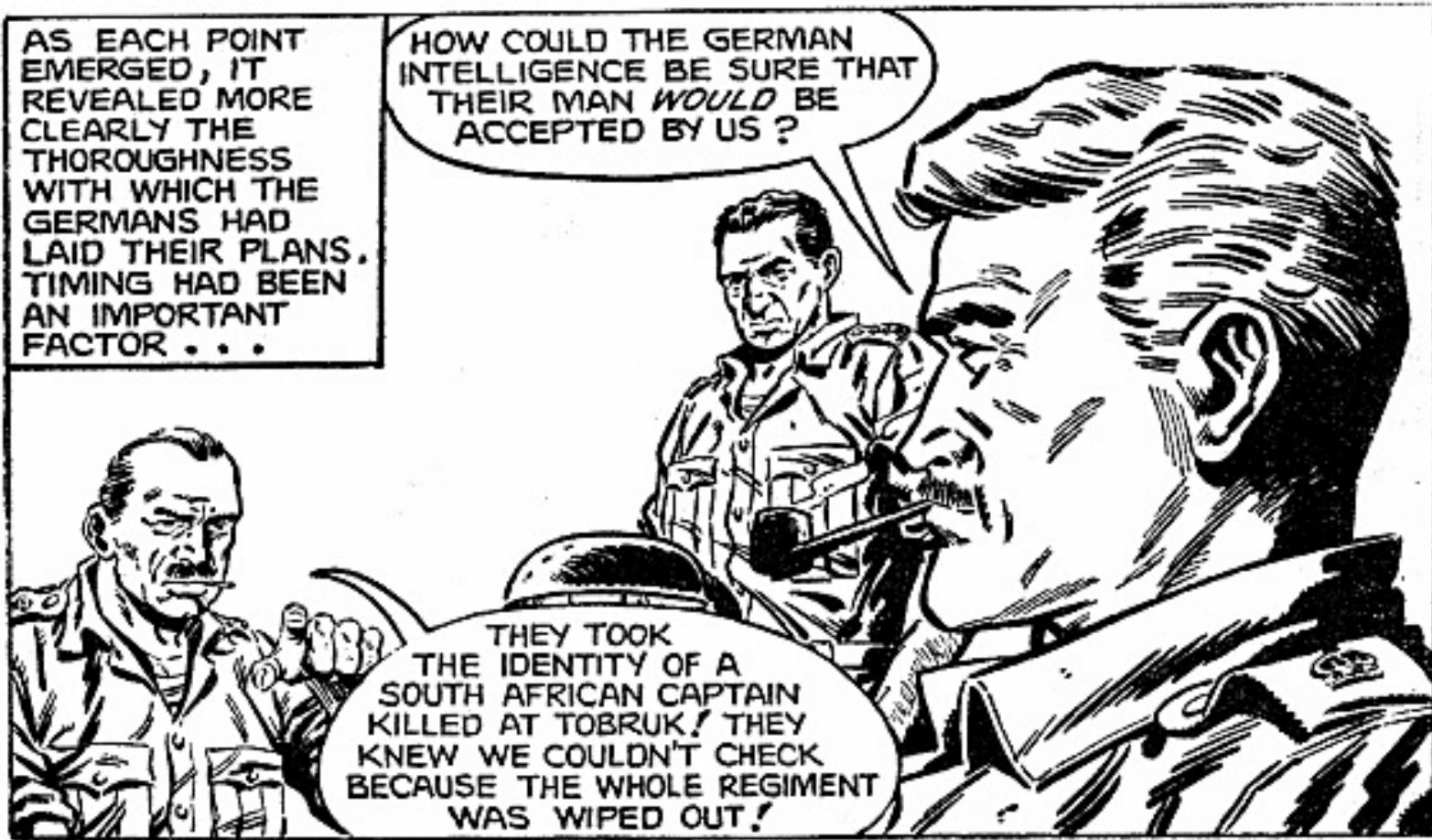
THREE THINGS, MCGILL! FIRST - TO STUDY OUR METHODS OF COMMANDO TRAINING; SECOND - TO CAPTURE THE CREAM OF OUR FORCE; AND THIRD - THE DESTRUCTION OF TWO BRITISH SUBMARINES!



AS EACH POINT EMERGED, IT REVEALED MORE CLEARLY THE THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH THE GERMANS HAD LAID THEIR PLANS. TIMING HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR . . .

HOW COULD THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCE BE SURE THAT THEIR MAN WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY US?

THEY TOOK THE IDENTITY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN CAPTAIN KILLED AT TOBRUK! THEY KNEW WE COULDN'T CHECK BECAUSE THE WHOLE REGIMENT WAS WIPE OUT!



THE COMMANDOS WERE A YOUNG FORCE. BUT FROM OPERATION TASKMASTER THEY HAD LEARNED ONE THING... THEY MUST BE BACKED UP BY METICULOUS INTELLIGENCE.



FROM THOSE EARLY BEGINNINGS THE COMMANDOS WERE FORGED INTO A SUPERB FORCE OF FIGHTING MEN THAT HIT THE ENEMY MANY STUNNING BLOWS THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE WAR . . .

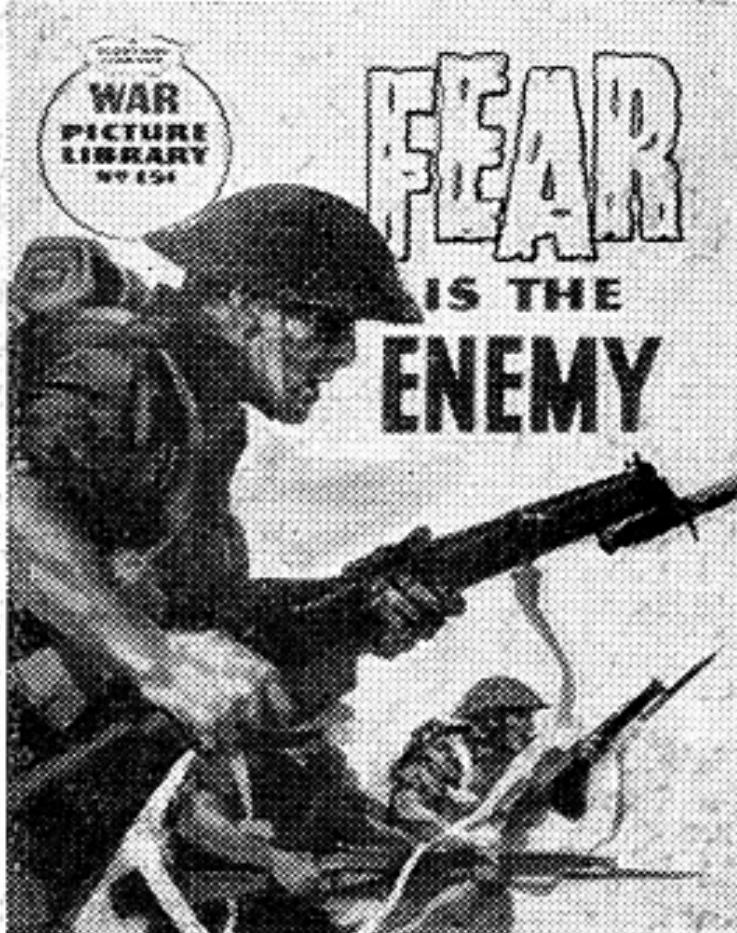
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